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Rapid shifts in South American montane climates driven by $p\text{CO}_2$ and ice volume changes over the last two glacial cycles

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Abstract

Tropical montane biome migration patterns in the northern Andes are found to be coupled to glacial-induced mean annual temperature (MAT) changes; however, the accuracy and resolution of current records are insufficient to fully explore their magnitude and rates of change. Here we present a ~60-year resolution pollen record over the past 284 000 years from Lake Fúquene (5° N) in Colombia. This record shows rapid and extreme MAT changes at 2540 m elevation of up to $10 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ within a few hundred of years that concur with the ~100 and 41-kyr (obliquity) paced glacial cycles and North Atlantic abrupt climatic events as documented in ice cores and marine sediments. Using transient climate modelling experiments we demonstrate that insolation-controlled ice volume and greenhouse gasses are the major forcing agents causing the orbital MAT changes, but that the model simulations significantly underestimate changes in lapse rates and local hydrology and vegetation feedbacks within the studied region due to its low spatial resolution.

1 Introduction

Long and high-resolution records of climate change are mainly inferred from ice cores of Greenland and Antarctica (GRIP-Members, 1993; Grootes et al., 1993; Jouzel et al., 2007; NGRIP-Members, 2004; Parrenin et al., 2007; Svensson et al., 2008), marine sediments (Bond et al., 1993; Martrat et al., 2007; Peterson et al., 2000), and speleothems (Cheng et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2008). High altitude regions in the tropics on the other hand appear to be particularly sensitive to current climate changes (Urrutia and Vuille, 2009) and are therefore ideally suited to investigate the environmental response (i.e. glaciations, hydrology and ecosystem integrity) to $p\text{CO}_2$ and glacial-induced ice volume variations rather than their surrounding lowlands. These high altitude tropical settings lack, however, the necessary high-resolution and accurate records to fully explore the operating mechanisms of the Earth's climate system.

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Here we elaborate on previous investigations (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Mommersteeg, 1998; Torres et al., 2005; Van der Hammen, 1974; Van der Hammen and González, 1960; van Geel and van der Hammen, 1973; Wille et al., 2001) by establishing an ultra-high resolution (i.e. ~60 year between 4646 time slices) pollen-based record of climate change from Lake Fúquene in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia (5°28' N, 73°45' W, 2540 m), which may compete in accuracy with the data collected from the ice cores, speleothems and marine sediments.

The modern precipitation regime at Lake Fúquene (Fig. 1) is controlled by the annual migration of the inter tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) causing two dry seasons (December to February and from June to August) and two rainy seasons (March to May and from September to November). The seasonal temperature cycle is very weak with monthly temperatures of 13° to 14°C. The daily temperature range is large and during the dry season night frost may occur (van Geel and van der Hammen, 1973). At present the lake lies within the Andean forest belt (Fig. 2). The upper boundary of this belt or upper forest line (UFL) coincides approximately with the 9.5°C mean annual isotherm, while the lower boundary is at an elevation where night frost no longer occurs (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Van der Hammen, 1974; Van der Hammen and González, 1960). During glacial conditions, lower temperatures cause a descend in altitudinal position of individual taxa, leading to a lowering of main vegetation belts (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Van't Veer and Hooghiemstra, 2000; Van't Veer et al., 1995; Van der Hammen, 1974; Van der Hammen and González, 1960; Wille et al., 2001). We will use the changes in percentages of arboreal pollen (AP%) (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Van der Hammen and González, 1960) to resolve the orbital and sub-Milankovitch mean annual temperature variations at Lake Fúquene over the past 284 000 years. In addition, we have carried out three transient climate modelling experiments to explore the significance of orbitally induced insolation, $p\text{CO}_2$ and glacial-induced ice albedo feedback mechanisms on the reconstructed temperature variations.

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2 Material and methods

2.1 Sediment cores

Two ~60 m long sediment cores, Fúquene-9 (Fq-9) and Fúquene-10 (Fq-10) were retrieved from Lake Fúquene, using a floating platform with Longyear drilling equipment of Gavesa Drilling Co. Bogotá. Consolidated sediments were first approached at c. 6 m below the water surface. Sediments were retrieved in segments of 100 cm length with a diameter of 75 mm. Core samples at the two drilling sites were collected with 50 cm overlapping depth intervals to maximize sediment recovery (Table 1). Undisturbed sediments in pvc-tubes were directly transported by air freight to The Netherlands for further treatment. The fresh sediment surface was photographed in a standardized photographic room. The two cores were transported to the NIOZ laboratory (Texel, The Netherlands) to obtain along the full length of both cores XRF-based geochemical data. Subsequently the cores were transported to the University of Amsterdam for collecting > 5000 samples for pollen and grain size analysis. Grain size analysis was carried out at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

2.2 Analytical methods

Bulk chemistry was measured with an Avaatech X-ray fluorescence (XRF) core scanner at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ). The XRF core cortex-scanner counts the number of the chemical elements aluminum (Al, atomic number 13) to bismuth (Bi, atomic number 83) per second (cps) directly at the surface of a split sediment core, a measurement which is proportional to chemical concentrations (Jansen et al., 1998). Prior to the measurement, the split core surface was smoothed horizontally without contaminating sediment surface. Subsequently the surface was covered with a 4 µm thin SPEXCerti Prep Ultralene foil to avoid contamination of the X-ray unit during measurement and to avoid desiccation of the sediment. Air bubbles under the foil were carefully removed. Measurements were carried out at 1 cm increments along

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the full length of the 60 m long cores. We used generator settings of 10 kV and 30 kV and measurement time was 30 s per cm. The standard procedure included a control measurement with a standard after every 1 m core interval. Further technical and practical details about the XRF core scanner are described in Richter et al. (2006).

2.3 Pollen analysis

The Fq-9C record was examined at 1 cm increments for a detailed survey of the palynological content. Pollen samples of 1 cm³ were processed using the standard pretreatment including sodium pyrophosphate, acetolysis, and heavy liquid (bromoform) separation. We counted pollen and spore taxa with specific ecological envelopes and a clear response to climate change through altitudinal shifts (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Mommersteeg, 1998; Torres et al., 2005; Van't Veer and Hooghiemstra, 2000; Van der Hammen and González, 1960; Wille et al., 2001). Pollen types were assigned to the following ecological groups: (1) taxa of subandean forest, (2) taxa of Andean forest, (3) taxa of subpáramo vegetation, (4) taxa of grasspáramo vegetation and (5) taxa indicating dry conditions. Down core changes in the relative contribution of the pollen types in these ecological groups reflect altitudinal shifts of the main ecological groups. Following Van der Hammen and González (1960) and Hooghiemstra (1984) AP% were used to estimate the position of UFL along the record.

3 Results

3.1 Composite section

Cores Fq-9 and Fq-10 were used to build a composite record (Fq-9C) with a minimal number of gaps in the sedimentary sequence. Down core changes in the lithology represent the first information for this exercise. Distinct and repetitive layers with peat, and intervals with higher concentrations of aeolian dispersed fine grained volcanic ash

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allowed an adequate first correlation between cores. Consequently, we used records of Fe and Zr obtained by X-ray fluorescence at 1 cm distance over the full length of both cores to fine tune the correlation. Selection of iron (Fe) and zircon (Zr) out of the suite of measured elements is justified by their physical and chemical properties. During XRF measurements heavier elements (Fe and Zr) remain relatively unaffected by the variation of physical properties along the core. In addition, Fe and Zr content may be indicative of variations in source areas and/or variations in sedimentary environments. It is to be expected that changes in both variables coincide simultaneously within the two parallel cores. For instance, Fe supply to the Fúquene basin may be associated with airborne volcanic ash. Ash layers have a distinct yellow color due to neo-formed siderite (FeCO_3) (Sarmiento et al., 2008). The Fe content may also be influenced by changes in the redox state of the water column as well as the sediment columns (Davidson, 1993). The latter may be associated with lake level changes which cause alternations between submersed lacustrine environments to shallow swampy conditions, and even to a drained status of the lake. Zircon is a conservative element and relatively resistant to chemical weathering processes (Balan et al., 2001). Zircon is found as detrital grains in igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. The zircon content is positively correlated with weight percent of coarse silt plus sand (Alfonso et al., 2006; Nyakairu and Koeberl, 2002; Stiles et al., 2003). Therefore, Zr may reflect high energetic sedimentary environments mostly coinciding with a proximal sediment source in relation to the drilling location of the cores.

Core Fq-9 had the least technical drilling artifacts and was therefore used as the backbone for our study. This implies that the depth of Fq-10 was adjusted so that the patterns of the various proxy records from both cores aligned. The procedure was carried out as follows: (1) High resolution photographs of the freshly split sediment cores and binocular-based lithological descriptions (Sarmiento et al., 2008) were used to obtain an initial framework of stratigraphic correlation. (2) Time series of Fe and Zr content of Fq-9 and Fq-10 were visually matched using Analyseries 1.2 software (Paillard et al., 1996). Tie points were preferably chosen at the steepest parts of the

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curves; occasionally maxima or minima were used (Table 2). The matched records were compared with the initial stratigraphic framework. (3) The procedure described in points (1) and (2) was repeated until all paired proxy records, e.g. Fe, showed comparable variation at any given depth. (4) No adjustments, such as squeezing and stretching were introduced within core segments. All core segments of Fq-10 were depth-shifted and stratigraphically aligned relative to the Fq-9 core segments. Subsequently, a final composite core was built where inclusion of disturbed intervals and sediment gaps was minimized (Table 3).

The composite core was labeled as Fq-9C and represents 90% of the sediment infill of the uppermost 60 m of the Fúquene Basin. Average lateral offset between stratigraphic layers was 52 cm (Fig. 3). Offsets between cores may reflect difference in sedimentation rates, erosion, and methane emissions during the drilling procedure. Sediments between 26 and 21 m contain significant proportions of organic matter. Interval 22 to 20.8 m reflects compressed peat. This 5 m of sediments contained over pressured methane which escaped from the borehole when the corer contacted this reservoir at 21 m depth. For safety reasons drilling activities were laid down during a full day until sediments dissipated (GAVESA, 2002). The escape of methane and subsequent compaction of the peat explains the significant change in offset between both cores in this core interval (Fig. 3). The lake surface was used as a reference. During the 5 weeks long drilling operation, lake-level changes were noticed after periods of heavy rains. As a consequence the offset between the zero calibration points of cores Fq-9 and Fq-10 is estimated offset up to 20 cm.

3.2 Spectral analysis

The AP% of Fq-9C fluctuates between 2% and 98% with the highest values found between 21 and 26 mcd and the lowest around 10, 29 and 53 mcd (Fig. 4a). We submitted the AP% record to spectral analysis in the depth domain using the CLEAN algorithm (Roberts et al., 1987), the REDFIT program (Schulz and Mudelsee, 2002)

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and a Blackman-Tukey power spectrum (Blackman and Tuckey, 1958) to identify the possible imprint of orbital signals.

The CLEAN algorithm was run as a MATLAB routine (Heslop and Dekkers, 2002) and is particular robust in determine the frequency distribution of unevenly spaced data series and noisy signals (Baisch and Bokelmann, 1999; Roberts et al., 1987). The CLEAN procedure performs a nonlinear deconvolution in the frequency domain in order to remove any artifacts resulting from incomplete sampling in the time (depth) domain. It includes a series of Monte Carlo simulations which allow a large number of slightly different spectra to be generated for a single input signal. The differences between these spectra are utilized to determine a mean spectrum and confidence intervals both for individual frequency peaks and for the spectrum as a whole. Through the use of an Inverse Fourier Transform of the MC-CLEAN spectrum, the data can be reconstructed in the time domain, providing a “noise free” version of the input signal. Because of the large number of data points and the almost equally spaced sampling resolution, we choose to linearly detrend the AP% depth series and slightly smooth it with a 5 cm average to reduce the number of data points from 4868 to 1134 before the CLEAN analysis (Fig. 4b). The CLEAN spectrum was subsequently determined by adding 10% red noise (i.e. control parameter = 0.1), a clean/gain factor of 0.1, 500 CLEAN iterations, an interpolation step (dt) value of 5 cm and 500 simulation iterations (Fig. 5a). The resulting spectrum revealed highly significant (99%) peaks at 9.07 and 22.65 m, and less significant peaks at 12.58, 5.96, 4.19 and 3.65 m. The 22.65 m periodicity coincides with the large-scale changes in the AP% record, which we attribute to the imprint of the late Pleistocene ~100 kyr glacial rhythm (Hooghiemstra et al., 1993). Accordingly, the 9.07 m cycle corresponds with a 41-kyr period, indicating a large obliquity control of the climate variability in this region.

We evaluated the CLEAN spectral outcome first by comparison with a Blackman-Tukey power spectrum, which was performed with AnalySeries 2.2 (Paillard et al., 1996) using 75% of the 200-year interpolated time series, a Parzen window and a Band Width of 0.0087. Although the power spectrum is much more smoothed, strong peaks

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occur at ~9 and 25 m; consistent with the CLEAN estimates (Fig. 5b). Secondly, we applied the computational spectral analysis program, REDFIT version 3.8 (Schulz and Mudelsee, 2002) on the original (non-smoothed and non-detrended) AP% data set. In this model a first-order autoregressive process (AR1), which is assumed to present a good estimate of the red-noise signature, is estimated directly from the (unevenly spaced) time series and, subsequently, transferred into the frequency domain using the Lomb-Scargel algorithm. Confidence levels based on a χ^2 distribution are calculated from the AR1-noise and from percentiles of the Monte Carlo ensemble. For the analysis, we applied one Welch Overlapped Segment Averaging (WOSA) segment ($n_{50} = 1$), 2000 Monte Carlo simulations ($N_{\text{sim}} = 2000$), and a rectangular window ($l_{\text{win}} = 0$). This resulted in a value of τ of 20.9 with 2 degrees of freedom. The power estimate and distribution are in good agreement with that of the Blackman-Tukey method, although an additional peak is found at 1193 cm (Fig. 5b and d). Third, we have run the CLEAN algorithm again, but in this case, D. Heslop (personal communication, 2009) incorporated the method of Mudelsee to estimate the AR1 characteristic period of the input data series (Mudelsee, 2002). With each iteration step, a new time series is calculated with the same AR1 characteristics and processed with CLEAN. These spectra are then used to calculate the confidence levels. This approach is a little different from before, because the noise is not added to the signal, but studied separately. This implies that the spectrum for the input data does not have error bounds, because it remains the same for each iteration step. Only the separate noise component is changing. The results are plotted in Fig. 5c and largely confirm the significance of the spectral peaks obtained from REDFIT.

3.3 Orbital tuning

We extracted the distinct 9 m component of the AP% record using a Gaussian filter as implemented in the freeware AnalySeries 2.2 (Paillard et al., 1996). The filtered frequency was centered at 0.0011 ± 0.0004 (Fig. 4b). The filtered 9 m signal was subsequently correlated to the filtered obliquity-related 41-kyr component of the LR04

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benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record (Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005) to establish an age model for Fq-9C (Fig. 4c). For this purpose we applied a Gaussian filter centered at a frequency of 0.0245 ± 0.002 , and tuned our data by peak-to-low matching of the filtered 9-m signal of core Fq-9C and the filtered 41-kyr signal in the LR04 record. Extrapolation of the resulting age model provides an age estimate for the bottom and top of the Fq-9C sedimentary sequence of respectively 284 and 27 kyr before present (ka), and an average sample resolution of ~ 60 yr.

Data from the last 27 kyr of the Fq-2 core (van Geel and van der Hammen, 1973) was implemented to construct a complete AP% record for the past 284 000 years. Correlations were verified through biostratigraphic events and radiometric carbon dates of the Fq-7C core (Hessler et al., 2009; Mommersteeg, 1998). For this purpose we revised the ^{14}C ages for the Fq-2 and Fq-7C records (Table 4) using the CALIB REV 5.0.2. program (Stuiver et al., 2009). Tie points between Fq-2, Fq-7C and Fq-9C were based on the following biostratigraphic markers: Arboreal Pollen, *Alnus*, *Polylepis-Acaena*, *Quercus*, *Myrica*, *Podocarpus*, *Asteraceae tubuliflorae*, *Hypericum* (Table 4). Detail comparison between record Fq-2 and Fq-7C for the upper part of the record showed that the Younger Dryas is only present in core Fq-2. Therefore, we linked Fq-9C directly to Fq-2 at 27.19 ka to produce the Fúquene Basin Composite record (FqBC), which reach up to the latest Holocene (Fig. 6).

Correlation to the LR04 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{benthic}}$ record was chosen, because this record is used as the backbone for many late Pleistocene paleoclimate studies. The LR04 chronology follows the SPECMAP approach (Imbrie et al., 1984; Imbrie and Imbrie, 1980) in which the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{benthic}}$ record is tuned to a simple ice sheet model that includes a forcing function (i.e. 21 June insolation curve for 65°N), an average ice-sheet response time and a non-linearity coefficient that describes the slow build-up and fast terminations of the ice-sheets. For the past 300 000 years, the LR04 chronology yields time lags for the obliquity (41-kyr) and precession (23-kyr) components of the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{benthic}}$ record of 7.5 ± 0.8 and 4.5 ± 0.5 kyr, respectively. This implies that also the AP% time series includes a ~ 7.5 kyr time lag for its obliquity-related component, which is supported

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by the compliance between the tuned ages of positions 300 and 353 cm in Fq-9C of respectively 32.9 and 35.2 ka, and their corresponding corrected radiocarbon ages of 32.54 ± 0.32 and 35.74 ± 0.31 (Fig. 6).

4 Discussion

4.1 Mean annual temperature reconstructions

Our new record radically improved the temporal resolution of the earlier pollen based records from the Fúquene Basin with an order of magnitude. The new pollen record covers the last two glacial cycles with better than centennial resolution. Evidently, the FqBC depicts the last three glacial terminations, $T_I - T_{II}$, T_{IIIa} and T_{IIIb} (Fig. 6). Wavelet analysis reveals highly significant spectral power at the glacial-bound 41 and 113-kyr periods, a continuum power distribution in the range of 9–13, 16–19 and 25–32 kyr, and enhanced power in the ~8 kyr frequency band at the major terminations (Fig. 7).

From previous altitudinal pollen studies of the tropical Andes, it appeared that changes in AP% respond quasi-linearly to temperature-driven vertical shifts in the UFL between 3700 m (the highest mountains at close distance) and the LGM position at ~2000 m (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Hooghiemstra and Van der Hammen, 1993; Van't Veer and Hooghiemstra, 2000; Van der Hammen, 1974; Van der Hammen and González, 1960; Wille et al., 2001). During the LGM, MAT at Lake Fúquene was approximately 7.8 °C lower than at present (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Hooghiemstra et al., 1993; Van't Veer and Hooghiemstra, 2000; Van der Hammen, 1974; Van der Hammen and González, 1960; Wille et al., 2001). This pollen based estimate is in good agreement with the 5–9 °C decrease derived from the change in snowline along the Eastern Cordilleras of the central Andes (Klein et al., 1999). In addition, these pollen studies showed that the LGM lapse rate was much steeper (~0.76 °C/100 m) (Wille et al., 2001) than today (0.6–0.64 °C/100 m) (Florez, 1986). The resulting 3 to 5 °C LGM decrease in sea surface temperatures (SST) is consistent with the $\sim 3 \pm 1$ °C lowering derived from

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the Mg/Ca and $U_{37}^{k'}$ – based temperature reconstructions of cores TR163-19 (Lea et al., 2000) and MD02-2529 (Leduc et al., 2007) in the Equatorial Pacific (Figs. 1 and 6).

Hence, we may use the AP% to provide a good approximation of MAT at Lake Fúquene through time using the modern to glacial temperature difference. However, since the AP% record is biased by the destruction of montane forests through intensive agriculture and soil erosion in the area over the last 3000 years (van Geel and van der Hammen, 1973), we assigned the AP% of $73 \pm 6\%$ at ~ 3.1 ka a MAT of 13.5°C , assuming that MAT remained close to present-day values over the past 3 ka (van Geel and van der Hammen, 1973). With a mean AP% value of $15 \pm 6\%$ at ~ 20 ka, this implies that a change in AP% of 10% corresponds with a MAT change of $1.3 \pm 0.3^\circ\text{C}$. The estimated standard error of the presented MAT record (Fig. 6) is $0.6 \pm 0.4^\circ\text{C}$, considering a mean temperature difference between 20 and 3 ka of 7.8°C (Hooghiemstra, 1984; Hooghiemstra et al., 1993; Van't Veer and Hooghiemstra, 2000; Van der Hammen, 1974; Van der Hammen and González, 1960; Wille et al., 2001). The resulting MAT estimate of $15 \pm 1.5^\circ\text{C}$ at 7 ka (early Holocene) is consistent with earlier reconstructions (van Geel and van der Hammen, 1973).

Comparison between our reconstructed MAT at Lake Fúquene and the Mg/Ca-derived SST estimates of core TR163-19 for the last 284 000 years shows that the temperature variations at high altitudes in the tropical northern Andes are larger and much more rapid, i.e. up to $10 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ within a few hundred of years, than reflected in the equatorial marine record (Fig. 6). They are slightly smaller in amplitude, although within error, than the reconstructed continental mean annual air temperature (T_{air}) variations between 40 and 80°N (Bintanja et al., 2005) and Antarctic temperatures (Jouzel et al., 2007; Parrenin et al., 2007) (Fig. 6). We obtained a considerable longer duration for MIS 5.5 (defined by the temperatures above present-day values between 110–133 ka) than the marine and polar temperature records (120–132 ka). A longer duration for MIS 5.5 is, however, in good agreement with the radiometric dated sea level records (Blanchon et al., 2009; Gallup et al., 2002; Thompson and Goldstein, 2006) during this period (Fig. 7).

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4.2 Comparison with transient climate modelling experiments

We have performed three transient climate modelling experiments with a GCM of intermediate complexity, CLIMBER-2.3 (Petoukhov et al., 2000), over the past 284 ka to serve an explanation for the MAT record in terms of regional versus globally-induced temperature variations. For this purpose we used a coupled model of intermediate complexity, CLIMBER-2 (version 3) (Petoukhov et al., 2000), that is very suitable for long transient simulations due to its fast turnaround time (Calov et al., 2005a, b; Claussen et al., 1999; Tuentner et al., 2005). The model consists of an atmosphere model, an ocean/sea-ice model and a land/vegetation model. No flux adjustments are used. The atmospheric model is a 2.5-dimensional statistical-dynamical model with a resolution of 10° in latitude and approximately 51° in longitude. The model does not resolve synoptic timescales but uses statistical characteristics associated with ensemble-means of the system. The vertical resolution for the circulation, temperature and humidity is 10 levels and for the radiation 16 levels. The time step is one day. The terrestrial vegetation model is VECODE (VEgetation COntinuous Description) (Brovkin et al., 1997). The model computes the fraction of the potential vegetation (i.e., grass, trees and bare soil). This is a continuous function of the annual sum of positive day-temperatures and the annual precipitation. The computed vegetation changes affect the land-surface albedo and the hydrological cycle. The time step of VECODE is one year. The ocean model (Stocker et al., 1992) describes the zonally averaged temperature, salinity and velocity for three separate basins (Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans). The three basins are connected by the Southern Ocean through which mass, heat and salt are exchanged. The latitudinal resolution is 2.5° and the vertical resolution is 20 unequal levels. The time step is 5 days. The ocean model includes a simple thermodynamic sea-ice model that computes the sea-ice fraction and thickness for each grid box, with a simple treatment of advection and diffusion of sea-ice. Results of CLIMBER-2 compare favorably with data of the present day climate (Ganopolski et al., 1998; Petoukhov et al., 2000) as do the results derived from sensitivity experiments

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(like changes in vegetation cover and solar irradiance) with those of more comprehensive models (Ganopolski and Rahmstorf, 2001).

Three transient simulations were carried out for the interval from 650 ka to present. Only the results for last 284 ka are discussed here (Fig. 7). The only forcing used in the EXP O simulation is insolation changes induced by the $La04_{(1,1)}$ orbital parameters, while the ice sheets volume and CO_2 forcing were kept fixed at present-day and pre-industrial (280 ppmv) values, respectively. In the EXP OI simulation the same orbital forcing was used but now varying ice-sheets on the Northern Hemisphere while in EXP OIG varying ice-sheets were included as well reconstructed changes in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations.

The greenhouse gas concentrations had to be prescribed because CLIMBER-2 does not contain a carbon cycle model. The used concentrations of CO_2 and CH_4 (methane) were mainly obtained from Antarctica ice cores together with other sources for the recent years. The measurements for 284 ka until the Holocene were taken from Vostok (Petit et al., 1999). For the Holocene, measurements from EPICA Dome C (Flückinger et al., 2002) were used because the sampling frequency is higher than for Vostok. Finally, for the last 500 years we used values from several sources (Robertson et al., 2001). The sampling frequencies for both CO_2 and CH_4 are irregular in time and are not similar for both gases. We interpolated both records to obtain annual values using cubic spline interpolation. Because CLIMBER-2 only has a CO_2 -module and no CH_4 -module, we had to transfer the CH_4 record into an equivalent CO_2 record assuming that CH_4 is 21 times as effective in absorbing long wave radiation than CO_2 (Lashof, 2000).

In addition, our version of CLIMBER-2 does not include an interactive ice-sheet model, so we had to prescribe the ice fraction and height of the Eurasian and North American ice sheet, which are considered to portray the largest ice sheet fluctuations during the studied time interval. The volumes for the Eurasian and North American ice sheets were obtained from a simulation with a 3-D ice sheet model (Bintanja et al., 2005) and translated into ice areas and heights of the ice sheets. For the ice areas

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the ICE-5G ice distribution of the LGM (21 ka) was used as reference (Peltier, 2004) and set on the spatial grid of CLIMBER-2 (Table 5). Due to a lowered sea level during the LGM and earlier glacial periods, ice was present on the increased land areas north of 60° N. Since the standard representation of the Earth's present-day geography in CLIMBER-2 does not take these larger land areas into account, we have increased the size of the land fractions from the northern Eurasian grid boxes for experiments OI and OIG. A test simulation using the extended land fraction but with present-day ice-sheet distribution was compared to a standard control run to examine possible climatic changes due to the modified land-sea distribution. Over the modified grid boxes the climate changed, but not significantly over the other grid boxes.

From the simulated volumes the time-varying heights of the American and the Eurasian ice-sheet was computed as follows: First, we let the Eurasian and American Ice-sheet have heights H_{eur} and H_{am} at some central grid boxes while at the surrounding grid boxes heights are $0.5 \times H_{\text{eur}}$ and $0.5 \times H_{\text{am}}$, respectively (Table 5). The volumes are estimated by multiplying the ice-covered area of an ice-covered grid box and the height of the ice-sheet in that grid box, adding the results for all ice-covered grid boxes. As the volumes are given from the 3-dimensional ice sheet model, H_{eur} and H_{am} can be computed. A drawback of this method is that only the height of the ice sheets change in time while the areas of the ice-sheets are fixed. Variations in height affect changes the atmospheric circulation, which results in climate variations especially above and to the East (i.e., downstream) of the ice-sheets. For the Fúquene area it is most likely that variations in albedo due to variations in ice-sheet area are more important than variations in height, because albedo variations directly affect the climate response to insolation variations. In order to let the area vary during the simulations, we instantly lowered the ice-fraction by 0.25 if H_{eur} or H_{am} becomes less than 1000 m and again by 0.25 for heights lower than 500, 100 and 10 m.

During the (prescribed) waxing and waning of the ice sheets there is no transport of water from the oceans to the ice sheets and vice versa, i.e., the sea-level in the model does not change during glacial cycles. For all simulations the height and surface area

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of Greenland and Antarctica as well as small glaciers were kept at present-day values. All three simulations have been carried out with the coupled atmosphere-ocean-vegetation model. The influence of interactive vegetation on the transient behavior of climate is described elsewhere (Tuentner et al., 2005). The initial states were obtained by performing a 5 kyr equilibrium run using the boundary conditions for 650 ka. The results are shown as averages over 100 yr as the periods of the oscillations of the orbital forcing and variations in ice-sheet volume and greenhouse gas concentration are much longer than 100 yr.

EXP O revealed only small temperature differences of less than $\sim 0.8^{\circ}\text{C}$, which oscillate primarily on a precession frequency (Fig. 7). A direct influence of orbital-induced insolation changes can therefore not explain the reconstructed large MAT shifts, which is in line with the absence of a distinct precession-related signal in the AP% record of Lake Fúquene. EXP OI clearly illustrates that ice volume changes largely control the MAT at $\sim 2.5\text{ km}$ altitude in the tropical Andes, but alone they are insufficient to explain the whole magnitude of the MAT changes at Lake Fúquene (Fig. 7). Evidently, the modelled MAT compares much better with our data when greenhouse gas forcing (EXP OIG) is added. This supports recent modelling studies (Urrutia and Vuille, 2009), which project large changes in South American (sub)alpine climates by the end of the 21st century due to enhanced anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. However, the simulated glacial-interglacial MAT changes of 3 to 4°C still significantly underestimate the reconstructed variations at Lake Fúquene (Fig. 7). Part of this discrepancy can be explained by the large divergence between simulated glacial-interglacial changes in lapse rate of less than $0.005^{\circ}\text{C}/100\text{ m}$, and the reconstructed change in lapse rate of up to $\sim 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}/100\text{ m}$. Another important factor in controlling this offset is the low spatial resolution of CLIMBER, which excludes to resolve specific changes in the local hydrology and vegetation feedbacks within the studied region. Finally, our CLIMBER-2 runs strongly underestimate the sub-Milankovitch and millennial scale variability (i.e. $< 11\text{ kyr}$), which clearly affected the MAT at the lake.

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4.3 Correlation between land and ice records of climate change

The sub-Milankovitch MAT variability at Lake Fúquene appears one-to-one coupled to the millennial scale changes reflected in the Antarctica (deuterium) and Greenland ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) temperature records (Fig. 8). In particular, the signature of the Younger Dryas, constrained by ^{14}C dates, and the interstadial Dansgaard-Oeschger (DO) cycles 1 (Bølling-Allerød), 8, 12, 14, 19 and 20 suggest an unprecedented North Atlantic-equatorial link. In addition, the short interval with low MAT during MIS 5.5 and the rapid MAT changes during the penultimate glacial period and Termination II mirrors the Greenland Ice Core Project (GRIP) $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record (GRIP-Members, 1993). However, the lower part of the GRIP core is suspect to disturbance, since it shows a different pattern than the one found in the North Greenland Ice Core Project (NGRIP) (Svensson et al., 2008; NGRIP Members, 2004) and the nearby Greenland Ice Sheet Program 2 (GISP2) (Grootes et al., 1993), although gas measurements suggest that it contains ice of the last interglacial and penultimate glacial maximum (Landais et al., 2003). The North Greenland Eemian Ice Core Drilling Project (NEEM) may decipher the robustness of this correlation.

At present, we consider that the age constraints of our MAT record are not accurate enough to determine the exact phase relationship with the North Atlantic cold events: i.e. the warm events appear also closely linked to the inferred Antarctic Isotope Maximum (AIM) (Members, 2006) (Fig. 8). It is tempting, however, to link maximum MAT conditions at Lake Fúquene to interstadial periods, because palynological investigations of the Cariaco Basin off northern Venezuela (Fig. 1) revealed the highest pollen concentrations and the maximum extend of semi-deciduous and evergreen forests in the northernmost part of South America occurred during these times (González et al., 2008). During stadials, the region around the Cariaco Basin is characterized by increases of salt marshes, herbs, and montane forests, while during Heinrich (H) events, periods of massive ice rafting in the North Atlantic (Broecker, 1994), forest abundance decreased (González et al., 2008). It has been proposed that during these events, a

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reduced Atlantic meridional overturning circulation resulted in extreme winter cooling of the North Atlantic (Cheng et al., 2006; Denton et al., 2005). Through an atmospheric connection, the ITCZ was, probably also with a winter bias (Ziegler et al., 2008), shifted to a more southern position (Cane and Clement, 1999; Chiang et al., 2003; Clement and Peterson, 2008; Peterson et al., 2000), and causing wetter climate conditions in the north-eastern part of Brazil and the Bolivian Altiplano (Baker et al., 2001; Wang et al., 2004). A comparison with a detailed record of North Atlantic, $C_{37:4}$ alkenone record of the Iberian Margin (Martrat et al., 2007), shows that in particular during H1-2 and H6 Lake Fúquene was affected by the lowest MAT (Fig. 8).

5 Conclusions

A strong one-to-one coupling between tropical and the North Atlantic climate variability on orbital and millennial time scales is found based on a new ultra-high resolution pollen record from the Fúquene Basin in the northern Andes. Using climate modeling experiments, we have shown that the large-scale, orbital-induced vegetation changes can be explained by the ~ 100 kyr and obliquity (41 kyr) dominated glacial-interglacial global temperature variations and changes in greenhouse gas forcing. Besides, our study has revealed that (sub)alpine climates in the northern Andes and associated ecosystems react very sensitive (rapid) on global climate change, thereby supporting modelling studies of future climate change (Urrutia and Vuille, 2009).

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H. H. and J. C. B. initiated and coordinated the project. M. H. M. G. and R. G. B. carried out most of the laboratory analyses and pollen diagrams. B. v. G. produced the Fq2 pollen record. M. V. produced the correlation between Fq9 and Fq10. Age model reconstruction and statistics were performed by L. J. L. Climate modelling experiments were designed by E. T. and S. L. W. Radiometric dates were provided by J. v. d. P. L. J. L. wrote the manuscript with specific contributions from M. H. M. G. and E. T. and additional comments from H. H. and M. Z. All Fúquene project members contributed their expertise to succeed the project.

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Table 1. Core sections (depth in cm) of Fúquene-9 and Fúquene-10.

Fúquene-9	Fúquene-10	Fúquene-9	Fúquene-10
	6799–6702		3259–3161
	6644–6546	3199–3101	
	6499–6402		3140–3041
	6379–6282	3079–2981	
	6259–6162		3019–2921
6199–6100		2959–2861	
	6139–6043		2899–2802
6079–5981		2838–2742	
	6019–5922		2779–2681
5960–5861		2719–2620	
	5899–5801		2649–2556
5839–5741		2599–2501	
	5778–5681		2539–2441
5719–5621		2479–2381	
	5659–5561		2419–2321
5599–5501		2359–2261	
	5538–5441		2299–2201
5479–5380		2239–2146	
	5415–5321		2179–2083
5350–5261		2119–2021	
	5299–5202		2059–1965
5239–5163		1999–1901	
	5179–5082		1939–1841
5119–5020		1879–1781	
	5059–4962		1819–1721
4999–4901		1759–1661	
	4939–4842		1698–1601
4878–4781		1639–1541	

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Table 1. Continued.

Fúquene-9	Fúquene-10	Fúquene-9	Fúquene-10
	4819–4721		1579–1480
4758–4660		1519–1421	
	4699–4600		1459–1361
4639–4541		1399–1301	
	4579–4481		1339–1241
4521–4422		1279–1181	
	4459–4360		1219–1121
4399–4301		1159–1061	
	4339–4241		1099–1001
4279–4181		1039–941	
	4216–4122		970–880
4159–4061		919–821	
	4099–4001		859–760
4038–3941		799–701	
	3949–3879		739–641
3919–3820		679–580	
	3859–3761		619–521
3798–3701		559–460	
	3738–3641		499–401
3679–3582		439–341	
	3619–3521		379–280
3559–3461		318–220	
	3499–3400		259–160
3439–3341		199–167	
	3378–3281		140–100
3319–3220			

Table 2. Tie points between Fúquene-9 and Fúquene-10.

Fq-10 depth (cm)	Fq-9 depth (cm)	Offset (cm)
169	108	61
257	196	61
378	318	60
499	437	62
737	669	68
858	793	65
969	899	70
1338	1255	83
1458	1368	90
1578	1475	103
1698	1587	111
1818	1742	76
2297	2212	85
2370	2279	91
2418	2367	51
2537	2522	15
2648	2695	−47
2778	2803	−25
2898	2915	−17
3018	3065	−47
3139	3170	−31
3257	3286	−29
3377	3418	−41
3498	3543	−45
3618	3649	−31
3738	3768	−30
3858	3895	−37
3948	3992	−44
4097	4145	−48

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**Table 2.** Continued.

Fq-10 depth (cm)	Fq-9 depth (cm)	Offset (cm)
4213	4260	−47
4338	4374	−36
4457	4492	−35
4578	4614	−36
4697	4742	−45
4817	4871	−54
4938	4970	−32
5057	5092	−35
5297	5327	−30
5324	5369	−45

Table 3. Selected intervals used to construct the Fúquene-9 composite record.

Fq-9 Depth (cm)	Fq-10 Depth (cm)	<i>Fq-10 drilling depth</i>	Fq-9 Depth (cm)	Fq-10 Depth (cm)	<i>Fq-10 drilling depth</i>
6000–5982			2719–2620		
5959–5866			2599–2516		
5839–5824				2515–2480	2530–2495
	5823–5736	5778–5691	2479–2381		
5719–5622			2359–2269		
5599–5584				2268–2240	2359–2331
	5583–5489	5538–5444	2239–2146		
5479–5461			2119–2090		
	5460–5370	5415–5325	2083–2021		
5350–5329			1999–1901		
	5328–5235	5298–5205	1879–1819		
	5208–5114	5178–5084		1816–1795	1901–1880
	5094–5001	5059–4966	1794–1781		
	4971–4878	4939–4846	1758–1695		
	4873–4780	4819–4726		1694–1645	1770–1721
4758–4744			1639–1571		
	4743–4645	4698–4600		1570–1490	1681–1601
4639–4615			1489–1470		
	4614–4521	4578–4485		1469–1389	1572–1492
4520–4426			1388–1369		
	4425–4400	4390–4365		1368–1280	1458–1370
4399–4312			1278–1257		
4278–4245				1256–1160	1339–1243
	4244–4170	4197–4123	1158–1062		
4158–4065				1061–1039	1144–1122
	4064–4049	4016–4001	1038–941		
4037–3994				899–810	969–880
	3993–3923	3949–3879	799–739		

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Table 3. Continued.

Fq-9 Depth (cm)	Fq-10 Depth (cm)	<i>Fq-10 drilling depth</i>	Fq-9 Depth (cm)	Fq-10 Depth (cm)	<i>Fq-10 drilling depth</i>
3919–3896				738–695	803–760
	3895–3799	3858–3762	679–580		
	3768–3679	3738–3649	558–460		
3678–3596				437–339	499–401
	3595–3564	3564–3533		319–227	379–287
3558–3499			199–167		
	3498–3450	3453–3405			
3438–3342					
3318–3260					
	3259–3199	3230–3170			
3198–3104					
3077–2981					
2958–2861					
	2860–2838	2843–2821			
2837–2742					

Core depth of Fúquene-9 are according to the original depth intervals. Core depth of Fúquene-10 are shown as their original depth intervals and the new depth intervals after correlating the cores.

Table 4. Tie points between Fq-2, Fq-7C and Fq-9C.

Depth (cm) Fq-7C	Age tie points	Reference
280.00	2.00	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
349.00	6.890	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
403.00	7.890	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
448.00	8.570	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
467.00	8.620	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
481.00	8.680	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
491.00	8.950	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
504.00	9.600	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
521.00	15.500	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
543.00	17.000	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
651.00	21.300	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
699.00	23.650	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-7C
915.00	35.074	Matching maxima in AP (related to maxima in <i>Alnus</i> , <i>Quercus</i> and <i>Podocarpus</i>) between Fq-9C and Fq-7C
1205.00	53.375	Matching maxima in AP (related to maxima in <i>Alnus</i> , <i>Myrica</i> and <i>Quercus</i>) between Fq-9C and Fq-7C
1530.00	70.071	Matching maxima in AP (related to maxima in <i>Quercus</i>) between Fq-9C and Fq-7C
Depth (cm) Fq-2	Age tie points	Reference
6.25	0.00	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-2
320.00	6.78	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-2
385.00	8.47	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-2
465.00	10.90	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-2
490.00	12.80	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-2
508.00	13.55	Revised ¹⁴ C age from Fq-2

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Table 5. Ice areas and ice heights.

Gridbox American Icesheet	Land fraction	Ice fraction	Height (in H_{am})
160° W–110° W; 60° N–70° N	1	0.5	0.5
160° W–110° W; 50° N–60° N	0.2	1	0.5
110° W–60° W; 70° N–80° N	0.7	1	0.5
110° W–60° W; 60° N–70° N	0.7	1	1
110° W–60° W; 50° N–60° N	1	1	1
110° W–60° W; 40° N–50° N	1	0.5	0.5
Gridbox Eurasian Icesheet	Land fraction	Ice fraction	Height (in H_{eur})
10° W–40° E; 70° N–80° N	0.9	1	1
10° W–40° E; 60° N–70° N	0.9	1	1
10° W–40° E; 50° N–60° N	1	0.5	0.5
40° E–90° E; 70° N–80° N	0.9	1	1
40° E–90° E; 60° N–70° N	1	0.5	1

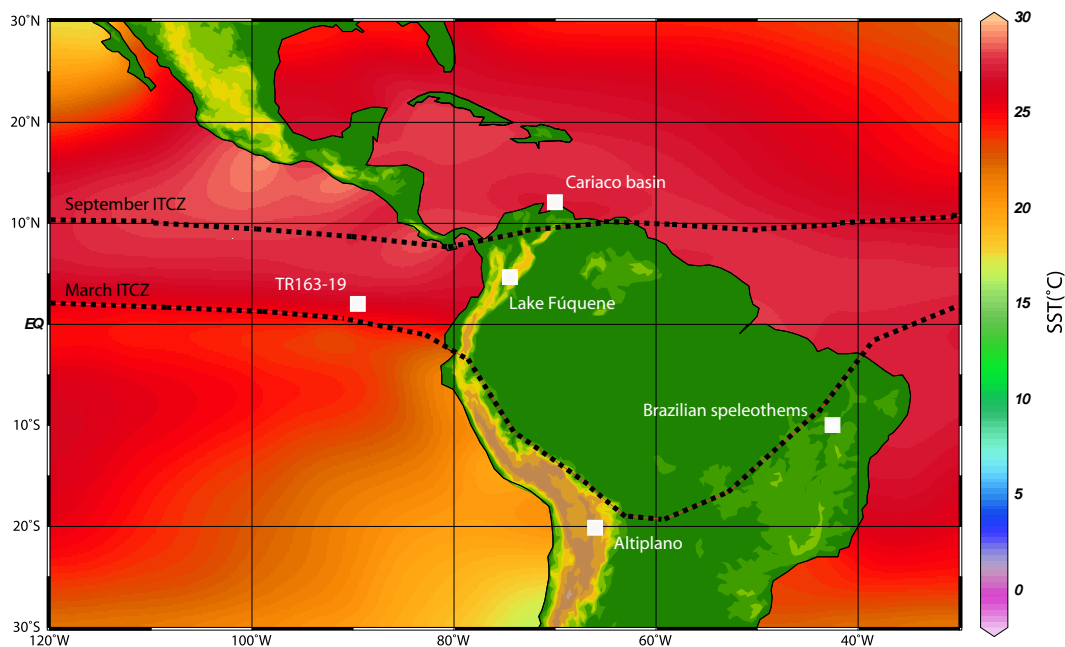


Fig. 1. Current annual mean sea surface temperature (SST) (Locarnini et al., 2006) and generalized position of the inter tropical convergence zone (ITCZ) during March and September. Location of sites: Lake Fúquene (5°28' N, 73°45' W; 2580 m a.s.l. – above sea-level, Colombia), TR163-19 (2°15.5' N, 90°57.1' W; 2348 m water depth, equatorial Pacific) (Lea et al., 2000), MD03-2622 (10°42.69' N, 65°10.15' W; 877 m water depth, Cariaco Basin) (González et al., 2008), Brazilian speleothem (10°10' S, 40°50' W; 500 m a.s.l.) (Wang et al., 2004), and Bolivian Altiplano (20°14.97' S, 67°30.03' W; 3653 m a.s.l.) (Baker et al., 2001).

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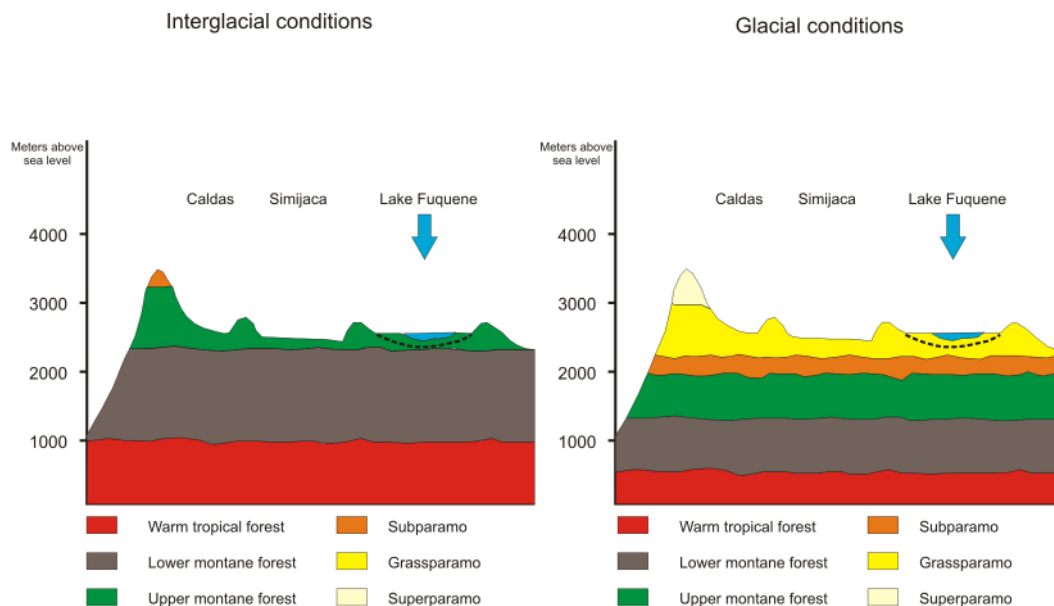


Fig. 2. Distribution pattern of source areas of pollen taxa during full glacial conditions and modern (interglacial) times.

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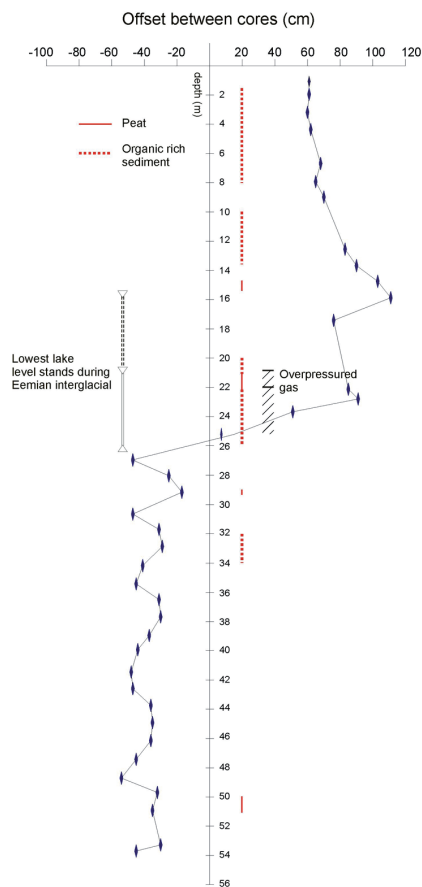


Fig. 3. Graph of downcore changes in the offset between core Fúquene-9 and Fúquene-10. Blue ellipses represent the tie points as indicated in Table 2. Gaps between vertical red lines represent mineral-rich sediments.

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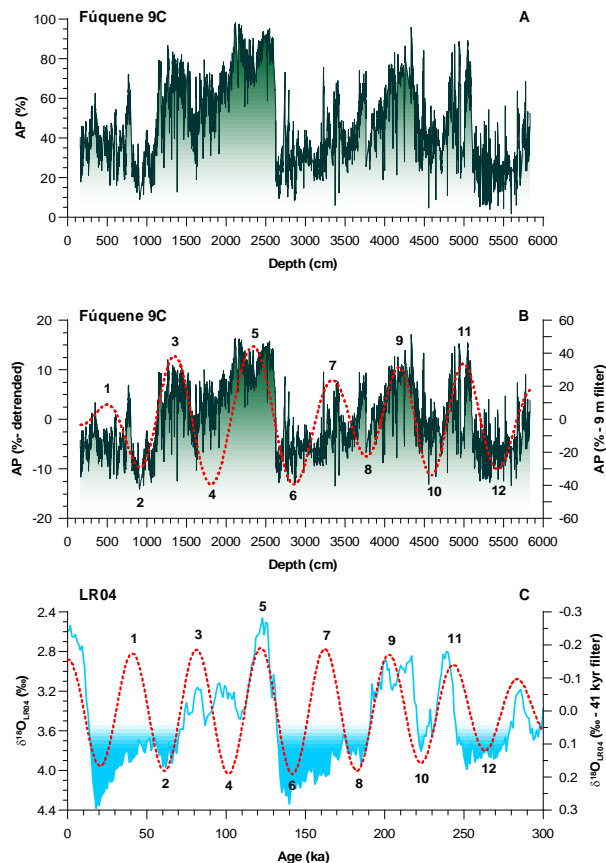


Fig. 4. The AP% data series of core Fq-9C plotted on a depth scale. **(A)** Raw data. **(B)** Detrended and interpolated depth series overlain by a Gaussian filter centered at 0.0011 ± 0.0004 (i.e., ~ 9 m component). **(C)** Correlation of the 41-kyr related component in the AP% depth series of core Fq-9C to that of the LR04 benthic oxygen isotope stack (see text for explanations and references).

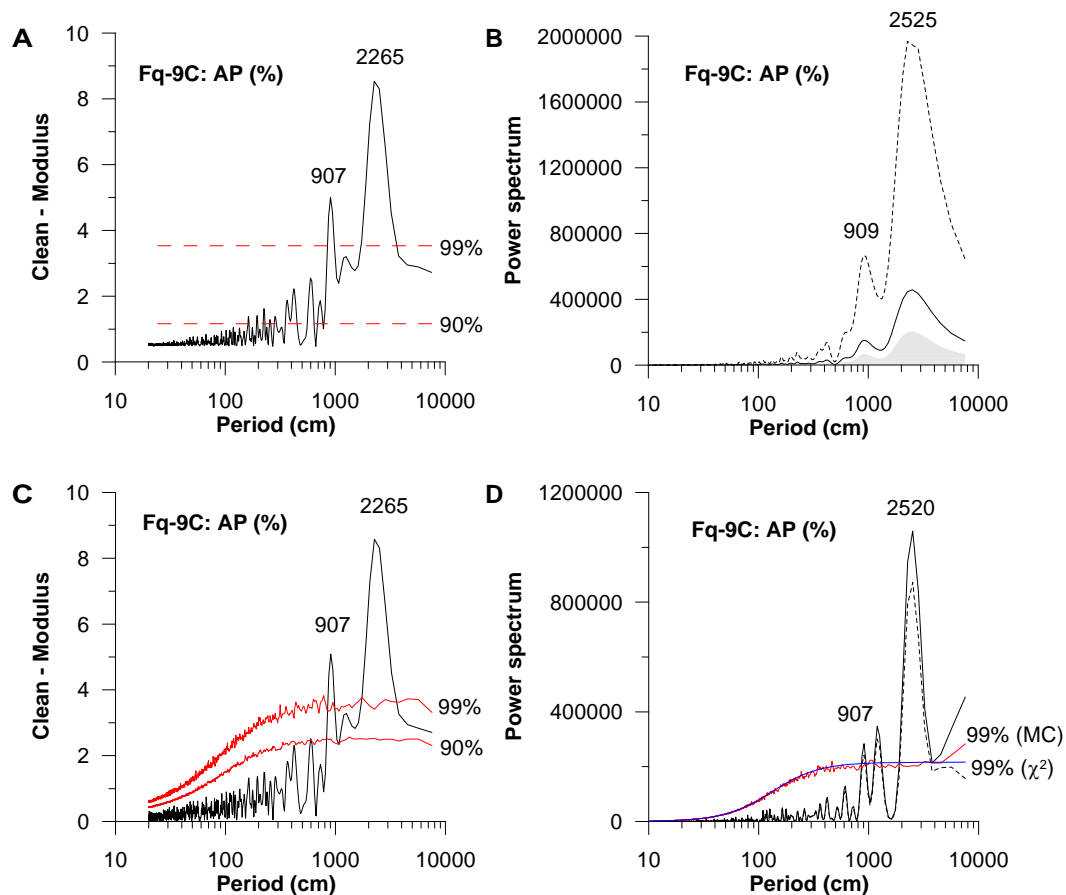


Fig. 5. Spectral analysis results of the AP% data series of core Fq-9C. **(A)** CLEAN. **(B)** Blackman-Tukey. **(C)** CLEAN (emended). **(D)** REDFIT (see text for explanations and references).

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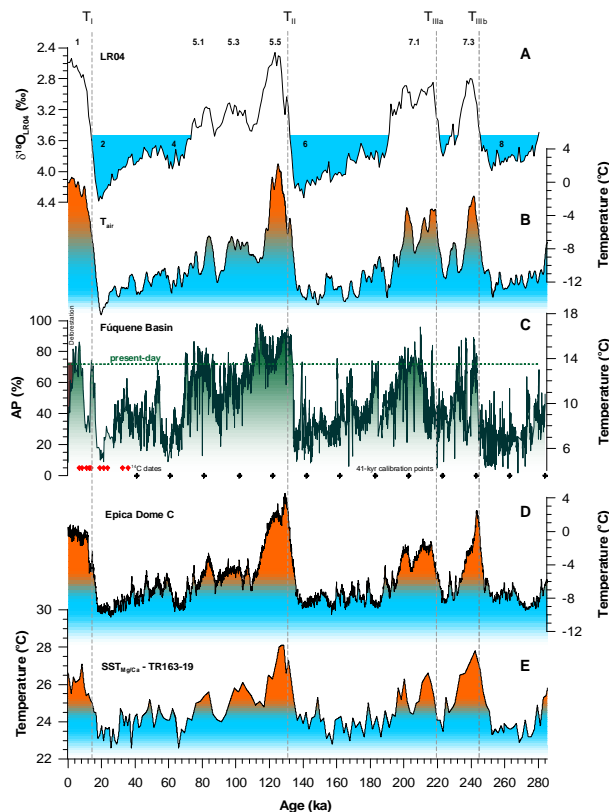


Fig. 6. Comparison of mean annual temperature (MAT) changes at Lake Fúquene with other records. **(A)** LR04 benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ stack (Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005). **(B)** Modeled NH air temperatures (Bintanja et al., 2005). **(C)** AP%-based MAT at Lake Fúquene. **(D)** The deuterium-based temperature record of Epica Dome C (Jouzel et al., 2007; Parrenin et al., 2007). **(E)** Mg/Ca-derived sea surface temperature (SST) record of TR163-19 (Lea et al., 2000). The numbers in (A) indicate Marine Isotope Stages. Brown shaded area in (C) represents deforestation interval.

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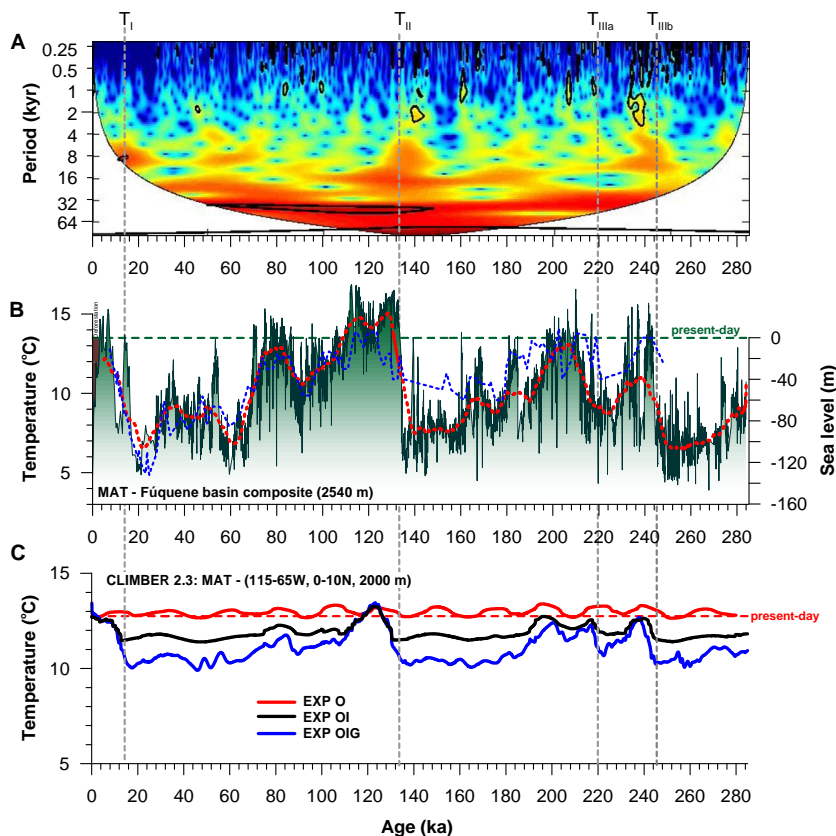


Fig. 7. Wavelet analysis of the Lake Fúquene arboreal pollen percentages (AP%) record **(A)** and comparison between the reconstructed **(B)** and modeled **(C)** mean annual temperatures (MAT) at Lake Fúquene. Red dotted line in **(B)** indicates 10 kyr moving average, while the blue dotted represents the radioisotopically dated coral-based sea level reconstructions (Thompson and Goldstein, 2006).

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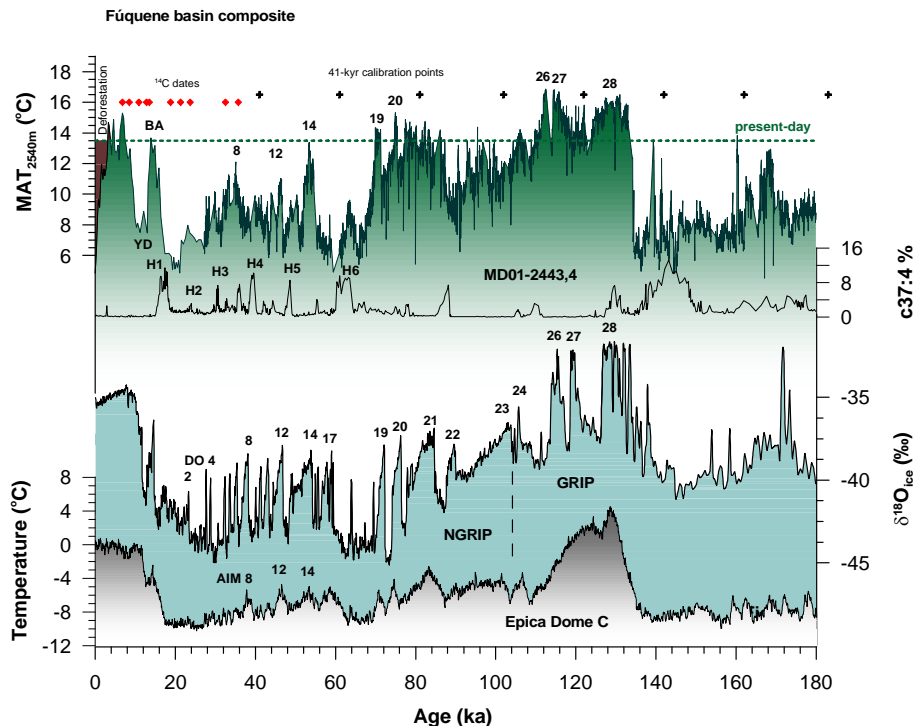


Fig. 8. Comparison between the reconstructed mean annual temperatures (MAT) at Lake Fúquene and the combined Greenland $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ice core records for the past 180 000 years (GRIP-Members, 1993) and temperature record of Epica Dome C (Jouzel et al., 2007; Parrenin et al., 2007). The DO numbers indicate Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles and AIM are the Antarctic Isotope Maxima (AIM). H1-H6 corresponds to the Heinrich events. BA = Bølling-Allerød interstadial and YD = Younger Dryas. The combined Greenland $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record includes (1) the Greenland Ice Core Chronology 2005 (GICC05) (NGRIP Members, 2004) based on annual layer counting for the past 60 ka, (2) the original NGRIP data (NGRIP Members, 2004; Svensson et al., 2008) between 60 and 103 ka, and (3) the data of GRIP below 103 ka.